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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application, as evidenced by the Official Action. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner taking time to conduct a telephone interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney. The Official Action rejects all of the pending claims, namely Claims 33-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780 to Levergood et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,956 to Kirsch. More particularly, the Official Action continues to allege that the Levergood patent discloses a method of managing information through an intermediary gateway device including the steps of receiving a request to communicate with a datastore having a network address, modifying the network address of the datastore (i.e., appending a session identifier (SID) to the datastore URL), and accessing the datastore through the intermediary gateway. While the Official Action again concedes that the Levergood patent does not disclose modifying the network address of the datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device, the Official Action alleges that the Kirsch patent discloses modifying a particular network address to reflect the address from which a request originated.

In light of the Official Action, independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56 have been amended to further highlight patentable features of the present invention. More particularly, as suggested by the Examiner during the telephone interview, independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56 have been amended to recite modifying or using a network address of a datastore to "incorporate," or that "incorporates," the address of an intermediary gateway device. Applicants have also amended Claims 38 and 47 to correct inadvertent typographical errors. As described below, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Levergood nor the Kirsch patents, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention of independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56, or the claims that depend therefrom, as alleged by the Official Action. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration of this application in light of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

It is also noted that an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed March 6, 2000, has not been returned to

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Applicants' attorney. Accordingly, it is requested that an initialed copy of the Form 1449 be forwarded to the undersigned with the next communication from the PTO. In order to facilitate review of the references by the Examiner, a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the Form 1449 are attached hereto. Copies of the cited references were provided at the time of filling the original Information Disclosure Statement, and, therefore, no additional copies of the references are submitted herewith. Applicants will be pleased to provide additional copies of the references upon the Examiner's request if it proves difficult to locate the original references.

As indicated above, the Official Action rejects Claims 33-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Levergood patent, in view of the Kirsch patent. As explained in response to the previous final Official Action, the Levergood patent discloses an Internet server access control and monitoring system. As disclosed, when a user selects a hypertext link to an access-controlled file, the server hosting the access-controlled file subjects the request to a secondary, authentication server, that determines whether the user has authorization to receive the access-controlled file. If the user has authorization, then, the user is provided with a session identification (SID) that allows the user to receive the access-controlled file.

The Kirsch patent discloses a method for redirection of server external hyperlink references. As disclosed, a web page is served from a server to a client, where the web page includes an embedded uniform resource locator (URL) to a web page served by an external server system. Instead of merely referring to the web page served by the external server system, however, the embedded URL refers to both the server (direct server) and the external server system (redirect server). In this regard, selecting the embedded URL sends a request to the server, as opposed to the external server system. Upon receipt of the request, data also included in the embedded URL can be logged for subsequent manipulation, analysis and reporting. The server can also send a redirect response back to the client such that the client redirects the original request to the external server system.

As recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56, methods, computers, computer-readable mediums and apparatuses are provided for managing information. As recited, a request to communicate with a network-accessible datastore is received. Then, access is provided to the network-accessible datastore through an intermediary

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gateway device using a network address (URL) incorporating the address (URL) of the network-accessible datastore and the intermediary gateway device. In this regard, as recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37 and 39, and new Claims 45, 47, 49 and 51, the URL of the network-accessible datastore is modified to incorporate the address (URL) of the intermediary gateway device.

In contrast to the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56, neither the Levergood patent nor the Kirsch patent, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device. As explained in response to the final Official Action, even considering the authentication server as controlling access to the network-accessible datastore, the Levergood patent does not disclose providing access to the content server and the controlled page to the client through the authentication server. As shown in FIG. 3 of the Levergood patent, after the client receives the tagged URL from the authentication server, access to the content server and the controlled page is provided directly between the client and the content server. In no event, however, do either of the transmissions of the requested content proceed through the authentication server. As such, contrary to the allegation in the final Official Action, the Levergood patent does not teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through the intermediary gateway device, as recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56.

The Kirsch patent discloses a method for redirection of server external hyperlink references that includes processing an embedded URL to an external server system by sending a request from a client to a server, which sends a redirect response back to the client. The client thereafter redirects the request to an external server. As such, the client and external server system communicate without going through the server as recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56. Also, even considering the server as including the datastore, the Kirsch patent does not disclose providing access to the server through an intermediary gateway device comprising an external server system or otherwise. As neither the Levergood nor the Kirsch patents teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device, the combination of the Levergood

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and Kirsch patents likewise does not teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device.

Also with respect to the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37 and 39, 45, 47, 49 and 51, and as recognized in the Official Action, the Levergood patent does not explicitly disclose modifying the particular network address of the network-accessible datastore to reflect the address of the intermediary gateway device. In addition, with respect to amended independent Claims 41-44, and 53-56, the Official Action recognized that the Levergood patent does not explicitly disclose providing access to the network-accessible datastore using a network address that reflects the address of the intermediary gateway device. During a telephone interview, however, the Examiner asserted the position that, because Levergood discloses the SID as originating from the authentication server (intermediary gateway device), the SID can be interpreted as "reflecting" the address of the intermediary gateway device. Thus, the Official Action alleges that the Kirsch patent discloses modifying a particular network address to reflect the address from which a request originated, and that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Levergood with Kirsch to teach the claimed invention.

Therefore, to more clearly define the claimed invention, independent Claims 33, 35, 37 and 39, 45, 47, 49 and 51, have been amended to recite modifying the particular network address of the network-accessible datastore to incorporate the address of the intermediary gateway device. In addition, independent Claims 41-44, and 53-56, have been amended to recite providing access to the network-accessible datastore using a network address that incorporates the address of the intermediary gateway device. Applicants respectfully submit, as recognized by the Examiner during the telephone interview, that neither the Levergood patent nor the Kirsch patent, individually or in combination, teach or suggest modifying or using a network address of a datastore to "incorporate," or that "incorporates," the address of an intermediary gateway device, as recited by amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the Kirsch patent, as well as the Levergood patent, does not teach or suggest modifying a particular address to incorporate the address of the server.

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More particularly, the Kirsch patent discloses a web page that includes an embedded uniform resource locator (URL) to a web page served by an external server system. As disclosed, the embedded URL refers to both the server (direct server) and the external server system (redirect server), as opposed to merely referring to the web page served by the external server system. For example, the Kirsch patent discloses the following example embedded URL: `http://<direct_server>/redirect?<data>?http://<redirect_server>`. Col. 7, line 23. The embedded URL disclosed by the Kirsch patent therefore is not modified to incorporate the address of the intermediary gateway device. In this regard, the embedded URL is generated already including the address of both the direct server and the redirect server. As such, neither the direct server nor the redirect server need to modify the embedded URL to include their respective URLs, considering either to constitute an intermediary gateway device.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that, even if the Kirsch patent does teach modifying the particular address to incorporate the address of the server, the teachings of the Kirsch patent cannot properly be combined with those of the Levergood patent to teach or suggest the claimed invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. In the Levergood patent, the authentication identifier is defined in one embodiment as including "a 32-bit digital signature, a 16-bit expiration date with a granularity of one hour, a 2-bit key identifier used for key management, an 8-bit domain comprising a set of information files to which the current SID authorizes access, and a 22-bit user identifier." Levergood '780 Patent, col. 5, ll. 56-61. To alter the Levergood method to modify the address of the datastore to incorporate the address of the alleged intermediary gateway device (authentication server), as opposed to the SID, would render the Levergood method devoid of its intended purpose, to authenticate users requesting access to the datastore. Further, to alter the Levergood method to modify the address of the datastore to incorporate the address of the intermediary gateway device would be to obviate the authentication process performed by the authentication server to generate the authentication identifier, as disclosed in the Levergood patent. Thus, the Levergood and Kirsch patents cannot properly be combined to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Even if combined, however, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Levergood nor the Kirsch patents, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed

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invention of amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. Also, as dependent Claims 34, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 50 and 52, depend directly or indirectly from amended independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56, Applicants further respectfully submit that neither the Levergood nor the Kirsch patents, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention of dependent Claims 34, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 33-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims and the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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